

Appl. No. : 10/628,880
Filed : July 28, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A catheter for accessing the heart and engaging a heart valve, comprising:

an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end and a distal end;

an anchor zone on a distal portion of the flexible body the anchor zone being configured to bend at least about 90 degrees to extend at least into an anatomical region adjoining the heart valve and having sufficient rigidity to stabilize the tissue manipulator at the valve; and

at least one tissue manipulator carried by the flexible body proximally of the anchor zone.

28. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 3 cm.

29. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 5cm.

30. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 10 cm.

31. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

32. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, comprising a first and a second tissue manipulator.

33. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the first tissue manipulator comprises a tissue grasper for grasping a heart valve leaflet.

34. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, comprising at least a first component which is axially moveable with respect to a second component.

35. – 77. (Cancelled)

78. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend from a left atrium, through a mitral valve and into a left ventricular outflow tract.

79. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a left ventricular outflow tract into an aorta.

80. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend into through a tricuspid valve and into a right ventricular outflow tract.

81. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a right ventricular outflow tract into a pulmonary artery.

82. (Previously presented) A catheter for performing a procedure on the heart, comprising:

an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end, a distal end and a length sufficient to reach the heart from a femoral vein access;

at least one tissue manipulator on the elongate, flexible body; and

an elongate, flexible anchor zone, extending distally of the tissue manipulator;

wherein the anchor zone is sufficiently flexible and long that it can extend through the mitral valve and into the left ventricular outflow tract to stabilize the catheter while the tissue manipulator is positioned at a leaflet of the mitral valve.

83. (Previously presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 3 cm.

84. (Previously presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 5cm.

85. (Previously presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 10 cm.

86. (Previously presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

87. (Previously presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, comprising a first and a second tissue manipulator.

88. (Previously presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the first tissue manipulator comprises a tissue grasper for grasping a heart valve leaflet.

89. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a left ventricular outflow tract into an aorta.

90. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend into through a tricuspid valve and into a right ventricular outflow tract.

91. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the anchor zone is configured to extend through a right ventricular outflow tract into a pulmonary artery.

92. (New) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the elongate flexible body is configured to house a fastening material that can be used to suture two leaflets together.

93. (New) The catheter as in Claim 27, further comprising a fastening material carried on the flexible body for suturing two leaflets together.

94. (New) The catheter as in Claim 93, further comprising at least one needle capturing device coupled with an end of the fastening material.

95. (New) The catheter as in Claim 93, wherein the fastening material is at least partially housed within the tissue manipulator.

96. (New) The catheter as in Claim 93, wherein the fastening material is at least partially located distal of the tissue manipulator.

97. (New) The catheter as in Claim 32, wherein the first and second tissue manipulators are asymmetric.

98. (New) The catheter as in Claim 97, wherein the first tissue manipulator is longer than the second tissue manipulator.

99. (New) The catheter as in Claim 32, further comprising a receptacle located within the first tissue manipulator for receiving a first fixating member.

100. (New) The catheter as in Claim 99, further comprising a second receptacle located within the second tissue manipulator for receiving a second fixating member

101. (New) The catheter as in Claim 100, wherein a first end of a fastening material is coupled with the first receptacle and a second end of the fastening material is coupled with the second receptacle.

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102. (New) The catheter as in Claim 87, wherein the first and second tissue manipulators are asymmetric.

103. (New) The catheter as in Claim 102, wherein the first tissue manipulator is longer than the second tissue manipulator.